

Remarks

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the present U.S. Patent application as amended herein. Claims 1-10 have been amended. Claims 11-20 and 25-30 have been withdrawn. No claims have been added or canceled. Thus, claims 1-30 remain pending.

Response to Examiner Comment #3

Regarding comment #3 on aliases, an alias is not inherent to NAT since the machines are simply distinguishable based on the new address assigned to the network traffic, e.g., machine A is identified by the address of its NAT device, and similarly, machine B is identifiable by the address of its NAT device. The NAT devices must have different, and hence distinguishing, addresses since any other configuration would result in an address conflict on a single network, e.g., both machines cannot have the same address 192.168.1.1 on the same network. Since the NAT devices are not the same and have different routable addresses, therefore an alias is not needed since the routable addresses for the NAT devices operate to distinguish the internal machines A.B. The operations in claim 5 are again respectfully submitted to be novel.

General Comment

To ensure both Applicants and the Examiner are "on the same page," some basic discussion of NAT translation follows. As understood by the Examiner, traffic received by a NAT from a network external to the NAT device (e.g., the Internet) is ignored if not received from an expected source. A source is expected when the

received data is received responsive to outgoing data sent from a network internal to the NAT device (e.g., an intranet, home LAN, etc.). This is a security feature. But, this interferes with operation of conventional protocols, such as SIP, H.323, or the like that separate out signaling and streaming, e.g., where listening for a session is on a port different from that used to originate a session. Various solutions disclosed within the specification address this problem with NAT, and one such solution is to modify a communication protocol such that outgoing and incoming communication is initiated by an endpoint behind a NAT device. This then "primes" the NAT to allow data traffic into the NAT according to the modified protocol.

This inventive intent may not have been clearly articulated in the claims, hence the claims have been substantially amended to clarify what is intended. It is believed these claims render moot all current rejections to the claims. However, for completeness, features of the independent claims will be addressed below.

Claim 1 as amended, for example, recites:

A communication protocol for establishing a communication session through a network translation device, the protocol utilizing a single communication port for both setting up the communication session and transferring data during the communication session, the method comprising:

preparing a session setup for a session with a first machine, the session setup identifying an internal origin address and a first internal port to which the first machine expects a response to the session setup;

sending the session setup to a second machine through the network translation device, the second machine configured to recognize if the session setup includes the internal origin address and if so to associate with the first machine the routable external origin address of the network translation device;

receiving a session initiation request from a third machine, said initiation having an associated external address/port for the third machine;

sending an acknowledgement to said initiation to the external address/port so as to prime the network translation device to receive the session from the third machine

It is respectfully submitted that Goldberg fails to teach or suggest claim 1 as amended. As best Goldberg is understood, discussed at page 9 lines 18-32, Goldberg uses a series of special packets and an application server to coordinate establishing communication between two endpoints. This is not what is claimed. Instead, as recited, one endpoint (the third machine) sends a session initiation to another endpoint behind a NAT (the first machine) and in response the first machine sends an acknowledgement to the third machine and thus primes its NAT to receive session data from the third machine. In the recited embodiment, in particular, the communication initiation is received from the third machine to the first machine, and is not part of a coordination effort by a registration server as in Goldberg. The first and third machines operate independently of the registration server to establish a communication session.

Also, claim 1 recites a communication protocol utilizing a single communication port for both setting up a communication session and transferring data during the communication session. This is not taught or suggested by Goldberg.

Regarding claim 2, as amended this claim recites the third machine being configured to wait for session content from the first machine, e.g., this primes the first machine's NAT for a response from the third machine. As best Goldberg is understood this is not taught or suggested.

Regarding claim 4, this claim recites the communication protocol corresponds to an alteration to an existing protocol that originally required utilizing different communication ports for setting up the communication session and transferring data during the communication session. As best Goldberg is understood this is not taught or suggested.

Claim 5 has been amended to explain that the alias is not related to a machine's network address.

Claim 8 has been amended to recite "receiving a first registration for the first endpoint according to a protocol utilizing a single communication port for both setting up a communication session and transferring data during the communication session" hence the priming of the session is in the context of the same port being used to initiate and communicate during a session. As best Goldberg is understood this is not taught or suggested.

Claims 11-20 and 25-30 have been withdrawn. Beauregard and means-for claim variations will be addressed at a later time once the allowability of the corresponding method/protocol claims is resolved.

Claim 21 has been amended to recite "receiving content for the communication session on the content port." As discussed above, as best Goldberg is understood this is not taught or suggested since Goldberg does not discuss aligning signaling and listening ports as recited.

It is believed, as discussed above, that the foregoing amendments and temporary claim withdrawals have overcome and rendered moot all §102 rejections.

It is believed the amendments have resolved all **§112** objections.

Regarding the **§103** rejections of dependent claims 4 and 14, these are allowable for at least the reason as depending from allowable base claims, hence the technical merits of these claim rejections is not being addressed at this time.

Regarding the rejection of other dependent claims not addressed above, these are deemed allowable for at least the reason as depending from allowable base claims, hence the technical merits of their claim rejections is not being addressed at this time.

Conclusion

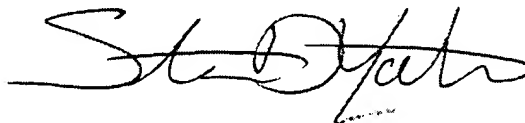
For at least the foregoing reasons, Applicants submit that the rejections have been overcome. Therefore, claims 1-10 and 21-24 are in condition for allowance and such action is earnestly solicited.

Regarding claims 6, 7, 10, 16, 17 and 20 these claims do not appear to have been rejected except for the §112 rejections. It is hoped the response to the §112 issue has overcome their rejection; their passage to issuance is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned by telephone if such contact would further the examination of the present application. Please charge any shortages and credit any overcharges to our Deposit Account number 02-2666.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: September 7, 2005



/ Steven D. Yates # 42,242 /
Patent Attorney
Intel Corporation
(503) 264-6589

c/o Blakely, Sokoloff, Taylor & Zafman, LLP
12400 Wilshire Boulevard
Seventh Floor
Los Angeles, CA 90025-1026